

**REMARKS**

Claims 9, 12, 14 and 16 are now the only claims remaining in this application.

By this amendment, claim 9 has been amended by incorporating into it language which recites that the openings comprise two continuous slot-shaped openings disposed in a radial plane, with the slots separated from each other by a first connecting piece 48 and a second connecting piece 48', and wherein the connecting pieces are disposed opposite from each other. Further, the openings each have a longitudinal axis, and each tapers in its middle.

Thus, independent claim 9 now recites the structure of the invention similarly to the description as presented in paragraph 20 of the specification.

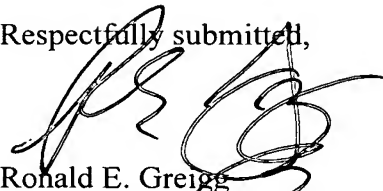
Moreover, none of the prior art cited by the examiner, not figure 1 of this application, nor the references to McCormick, Bartholomew, nor Fujino teach such spring structure. Of these references, the one which comes closest to having the spring structure as now recited in claim 9 is Fujino. However, the structure of Fujino's springs is not the same as the spring structure which is now recited in claim 9.

And further, the springs of Fujino are disclosed to be used in the mattress art, not in the fuel injection art, and there is no teaching of record which would cause one skilled in the art to use the springs of Fujino in a fuel injector.

Also, and perhaps even more importantly, there is no teaching of record which would cause one skilled in the art to modify the spring structure of Fujino so as to achieve the same spring structure as is now recited in claim 9.

Appl. No. 10/509,057  
Amdt dated August 16, 2006  
Reply to Office Action dated 05/16/06

For the above reasons, entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims are  
courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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Date: August 16, 2006

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